

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended at page 3, line 13; page 6, line 13 and page 7, line 17, as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action of February 24, 2003. The applicants appreciate the opportunity to further amend the application as indicated by the Examiner. Moreover, the specification has been amended to include the attached Sequence Listing. The attached paper and computer readable copies of the Sequence Listing are the same. No new matter has been added. The specification has further been amended to include the attached Figures which are the same as the originally-filed Figures but for the fact that Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to include a larger left-hand margin, as required by the PTO-948 Form dated April 13, 2000.

A separate Statement relating to the Sequence Listing is attached. Nothing further is believed to be required in response to the Office Action of February 24, 2003, however the Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise.

GHERARDI et al
Serial No. **09/423,516**
March 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:plb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100